(d) Does not arise.

Dual Pricing Policy on Fertilizers

*213. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any criteria under the dual pricing policy on fertilizers to differentiate farmers on the basis of their agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sri Sailam Left Bank Canal Project

*214. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modified report regarding the Srisailam Left Bank Canal Project has since been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Goverpment thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Processing of Gold Extracted from Chigurukunta Gold Mines

*215. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining operations are going on in the Chigurukunta Gold Mines in the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the gold extracted from the above mine is also being processed there;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to process the gold near the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). As the Ore mined from Chigargunta mines is of low grade, a separate recovery plant to process the Ores at Chigargunta has not been found economic. At the same time, additional capacity to process the ores is available at Kolar Gold Fields Mills which can take care of the ores produced in Kolar Gold Fields area (KGF area) as also Chigargunta mines, thereby utilising the idle capacity available at KGF mills. The ore produced from Chigargunta gold mine are processed at KGF mills. Presently, there is no proposal to process gold ore at Chigargunta.

Modernisation of IISCO

*216. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to entrust the job of modernisation and subsequent operation of the India Iron and Steel Company Limited to some private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any final decision for disinvestment by the Government in the IISCO has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (c). Government have not yet taken a decision in this regard. The proposal regarding modernisation of IISCO is pending before Public investment Board. SAIL are also exploring various alternatives regarding project funding.

(b) and (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

System for distribution of Coal

*217. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have devised any system for proper distribution of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to change the existing system; if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). There is an existing distribution policy for coal. This policy provides for priority allocation as well as movement of coal to core sector industries/consumers like power, cement, steel, railway traction etc., on the basis of sponsorship by Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Industries, Railways etc. The next priority is allocated to non-core sector industries, whioh are either sponsored by Ministry of Industries or respective State Governments. Besides this, soft coke and coal is supplied for domestio consumption on the basis of annual allocation made for State Governments, through authorized agents duly sponsored by State Governments, Coal is also made freely available to all consumers, 1000 tonnes at a time, on first come first served basis, from certain mines placed under liberalised sales scheme.

(c) Distribution policy for coal requires periodical reviews to adjust to the changing patterns of demand and supply in order to maximise consumer satisfaction. Recently a paper on the subject has been prepared and the views of the State Governments on the paper have been invited. The changes would be made, as and when considered necessary, after considering the suggestions received in this regard.

[*English*]

Taking over of Bauxite Mines

*218. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take over bauxite mines to control the rising prices of non-ferrous metals including aluminium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to control the prices of non-ferrous metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.